

thing is impossible. The bulletin is forged !" The Marshal, who had paid more attention to the news than to its date, was astounded. But having afterwards shown the bulletin to Drouot, that General said, "Alas! Marshal, the news is but too true. The error of the date is merely a misprint, the 9 is a 6 inverted !" On what trifles sometimes depend the most important events. An inverted cipher sufficed to flatter-Bonaparte's illusion, or at least the illusions which he wished to maintain among, his most distinguished lieutenants, and to delay the moment when they should discover that the loss they deplored was too certain. On that very day the Empress left Paris.

[ANNEX TO THE PRECEDING CHAPTER.]

It is even more than usually difficult to fix the number of troops brought into the field in the campaign of 1814 as both sides received re-enforcements, and as a large part of the forces originally under Soult and Suchet were brought northwards. The following figures seem to agree with, those given by the best authorities as the strength at the beginning of the year. The Army of Bohemia, or the Grand Army of the Allies, under Schwartzenberg, was about 116,000 strong, and the Army of Silesia, composed of Russian and Prussian corps, under Blucher, about 88,000 strong, were opposed by Napoleon with some 8700 men. Napoleon was re-enforced from time to time, but Schwartzenberg had a reserve of 5000 at Bale (Ham-ley, *Operations of War*, p. 278). Soult, with about 40,000 men, faced Wellington, with 100,000, of whom some 28,000 were employed at Bayonne. In Belgium Maison, with 12,000 men, faced the Duke of Saxe-Weimar with 2500, and in Italy Eugene, with 36,000, opposed an Austrian army of 70,000, eventually joined by Murat. The French troops which held the various fortresses in Germany were blockaded by superior numbers of the Allies. In the interior of France large levies were being made, and Augereau was sent to Lyons to command a force of young troops, increased by drafts from Suchet, to meet the Austrians under Bubna.

In this defensive campaign of 1814 the genius of Bonaparte